

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“___”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“—”) being deleted:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of allocating use of peripheral devices in a network system comprised of:

identifying users in the network system to a central device;

providing peripheral device access limitations to the users by the central device, wherein the peripheral devices perform document processing;

informing the peripheral devices of the access allowed to users by the central device;

permitting a user to communicate with the central device, via the Internet, by inputting information into one of the peripheral devices such that status information pertaining to the one of the peripheral devices is provided to the user;

reading marks on documents to be processed by the one of the peripheral devices; and

identifying, by the marks, the documents to the central device, such that processing of the documents by the one of the peripheral devices is permitted if access of the user corresponds to the documents.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

accounting peripheral device usage of the users by the central device.

3. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
relating the identified documents to users that request the identified documents.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
providing an embedded virtual machine in each of the peripheral devices wherein the embedded virtual machine interfaces to the central device.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein at least one of the peripheral devices is a multi-functional peripheral device whereby the central device configures the multi-functional peripheral device to serve specific functions.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the central device comprises of logic in a server connected to the network system.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
providing the users with collective and individual information and status of the peripheral devices.
10. (Currently Amended) A network system controlling and managing resource usage comprised of:
a central device accessible by one or more users; and
one or more peripheral devices, wherein the peripheral devices process documents, wherein the central device provides information to the peripheral devices as to access by the users, and wherein the peripheral devices facilitates communication with the central device by

receiving information from the users and, in response thereto, providing status information pertaining to the peripheral devices to the users, wherein the documents are given a mark read by the peripheral devices and identified by the central device such that the processing of the documents by the peripheral devices is permitted if access of the users correspond to the documents.

11. (Original) The network system of claim 10 wherein the central device accounts for peripheral device usage of the users.

12. – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The network system of claim 10 wherein the documents are related to users that request the documents.

15. (Original) The network system of claim 10 wherein the peripheral devices are further comprised of an embedded virtual machine that interfaces to the central device.

16. (Original) The network system of claim 15 wherein at least one of the peripheral devices is a multi-functional peripheral device whereby the central device configures the multi functional peripheral device to serve specific functions.

17. (Original) The network system of claim 10 wherein the central device comprises control logic in a server connected to the network system.

18. (Original) The network system of claim 10 whereby users are provided collective and individual information and status of the peripheral devices.